

## GENERAL NOTES.

**The Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) at the Southern Extremity of Lake Michigan.**— March 24, 1913 I found an immature female of this species lying dead on the beach at Miller, Lake Co., Indiana. Evidently some hunter had shot it and then thrown it away. It was in excellent condition, being very fat, and had been, to all appearances, recently killed. It may be, as Mr. B. F. Gault suggests, that this species is more common on Lake Michigan during the colder months than is generally supposed, but printed records, for the region about Chicago at least, are few. Therefore, it seems worth while to put this specimen on record. I have preserved the skin.

Mr. Gault has very kindly given me permission to publish another record concerning the appearance of this species in the Chicago area. April 18, 1908, he found a specimen in adult plumage in the shop of a taxidermist at Lyons. This bird was said to have been shot that morning nearby in the Desplaines River below Riverside, a western suburb of Chicago.

I wish to express my obligations to Messrs. A. W. Butler and B. T. Gault for information concerning previous records.—EDWIN D. HULL, *Chicago, Ill.*

**The Old-squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*) on the Connecticut Coast in Summer.**— Since there seem to be but few published notes concerning the occurrence of the Old-squaw south of its breeding grounds in summer, the following notes will probably be of interest. I first observed this species in summer on August 2, 1906, in a small bay at the mouth of Oyster River, West Haven, Conn. There were three of the birds at this time. They were observed very closely and seemed disinclined, and perhaps unable to fly. When I threw stones close to them they paid no attention, and when I ran at them suddenly, to try to make them fly, they merely dove.

My second meeting with this species in summer occurred recently at Compo, Conn., near Westport. On the evening of July 14, 1913, I was out rowing with three friends. It was a warm, moonlight, summer evening without a breath of wind. When nearly a mile from shore we heard the calling of a flock of Old-squaws. As we drew nearer they called repeatedly, and we soon saw them, seated on the water. It was too dark to see any but the nearest birds, so that an accurate count was impossible. The most that I counted at one time was twelve, but I believe it more likely that the number was somewhere between fifteen and twenty. When we got close to them, some of the birds flew, but most of them beat along the surface of the water with their wings as if unable to rise, and finally dove instead. The birds called repeatedly, the "south south southerly" call. Although we were unable to see them clearly enough in the moonlight to make out

anything, except that they were ducks, this call is so characteristic and unmistakable that the identification from it alone is certain.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Mt. Vernon, N. Y.*

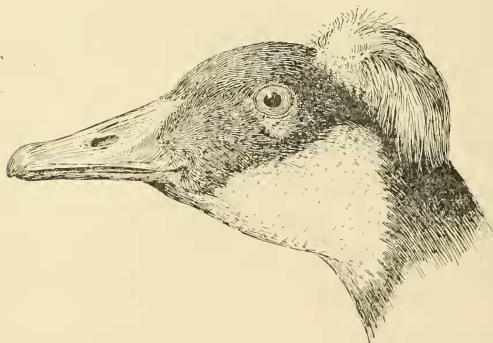
**A Crested Canada Goose.**—On February 15, 1913, three Canada Geese, all with a peculiar crest of feathers were shot from the same bunch of geese, near Pea Island, N. C.

Dr. H. B. Bigelow came into possession of the partial scalp of one of these curious birds and was good enough to turn it over to me.

From this piece of head skin I have had the accompanying drawing made. The crest is dirty brownish in color and the feathers are stiff and rather tightly curled.

The occurrence of this crest in a race of wild geese is interesting, because the crested Polish fowls and the breed of crested ducks are well known.

So far as I am informed there is no race of crested geese, though in Wright's Book of Poultry, 1886, p. 562, there is mention of the fact that in



crosses between Embden and Toulouse geese the majority of the gander and a fair proportion of the geese carry a slightly crested head.

Davenport showed (Carnegie Institute Pub. no. 52) that the crest of the Polish fowl was a dominant character, though the dominance was not perfect. The crest here is associated with a cerebral hernia.

The fact that three crested individuals were shot from this same flock of geese means that they belonged almost certainly to the same family, and that the crest was probably inherited as a dominant character.

If such a variation had occurred in captivity it could have been made the basis for a permanent race of crested Canada Geese.—JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*